



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 26, 1992



Making Disciples at Camp p.3
AFLC Bible Camps p.4

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 26, 1992 • Vol. 30, No. 11

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

is published biweekly (except for the second issue of July and the second issue of August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441.

CONTENTS

Making Disciples at Camp	p. 3
AFLC Bible Camps	p. 4
The Future of Camping in the AFLC	p. 5
A Dream Come True	p. 6
A Tribute To A Dear Friend	p. 1

Cover photo by
Roger C. Huebner, D. D. S.

Subscriptions: \$12.00 year, U. S.
\$15.00 year, international

Write to:

The Lutheran Ambassador
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Send all communications concerning this magazine to: Solveig Hjermstad, Assistant to the Editor, Box 423, Faith, South Dakota 57626. Phone (605) 967-2381. Fax (605) 967-2382.

USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413
Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota, and additional mailing office.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441.

Rev. Laurel Udden, Editor
Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Assistant to the Editor

Editorial Board:

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Chairman
Dr. Francis Monseth, Secretary
Mr. Robert Knutson

The Gift of The Sacraments

An area that has tragically become an embarrassment to many Lutherans is the sacraments, the Lord's Supper and Baptism. Liberal "Lutherans" have so misused the sacraments that we have shied away from what the Bible teaches concerning these gifts from God.

Often parishioners have come to me telling of funerals they have attended for a person known to have been living a sinful life and the pastor officiating has assured the congregation that the deceased is in heaven because at infancy, they were baptized. While this is a tragedy, I wonder if it is not also a tragedy that we attribute nothing to baptism when sharing significant spiritual events in our lives.

I once attended a wedding in a Lutheran church where the Lord's Supper was served by the bride and groom. The gospel was not preached, no warning was given. All, whether Christians or not, were invited to partake. It seems that because of abuse, we shy away from Biblical teaching on the sacraments and become like the rest of the "evangelical" community in our country. So often the only spiritually significant event we focus on is when a "decision is made for Christ," making one wonder if there isn't a desire to focus on **our** actions rather than the gracious work of God.

How fortunate we are to have a heritage that regards the sacraments as they are presented in God's Word. They are not merely symbolic works done by men and added to the work Jesus did on our behalf. How dangerous to think we can add anything to the finished work of our Savior! Nor can they be dismissed because they are an area of controversy that is divisive in the church. The sacraments are not so minor an issue that taking a stand on them can be avoided simply to avoid disagreement. They bring to us the very grace of God!

Luther, in his Small Catechism, points out some of the scriptures concerning Baptism (the last chapter of

Light on the Way

Matthew, the last chapter of Mark, the sixth chapter of Romans, the third chapter of Titus), and concerning the Lord's Supper (the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke and the writings of St. Paul, in particular I Corinthians 11:17ff) that tell us what the sacraments really are. So Luther says of baptism, "It works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe ..." And pointing to the words of Scripture, "... given and shed for you for the remission of sins," Luther says of the Lord's Supper that, "... life and salvation are given unto us in the sacrament; for where there is remission of sins, there is also life and salvation." So the sacraments are not a secondary issue to be lightly passed by. And only by ignoring God's clear Word and applying the proud logic of man can they be reduced to symbolism or worse, necessary works of men added to the work of Christ in order to be saved.

Since the grace of God is our only hope of salvation, the means by which He bestows that grace upon us are every bit as precious as is that grace. Is it by our own efforts or means that we are saved? No! No! A thousand times no! The faithful work of God and the means He uses give us faith, hope, peace, assurance, praise and joy. We have a stern warning from Hebrews 2:3, "... how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?" Indeed how?

Thank you God for providing your precious means, your Word and your sacraments, to make me your own and to keep me till your work is brought to its completion in my life. Amen.



—by Rev.
Jon Wellumson

Making Disciples At Camp



The Tabernacle at Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minnesota.

When I think about camping, the Great Commission comes to mind, especially the phrase: "Make disciples of all nations." When our Lord Jesus walked on earth He often chose the natural settings of the countryside, the seashore or the desert as the backdrop for His impartation of Christian truths. John the Baptist drew people out into the desert to see more than the simple lifestyle of a country preacher, but to hear a simple message of repentance in a setting where the negative influence of a cosmopolitan culture had less of a hold on the thought deep within the searching souls of men. Camping experiences provide a similar setting for the teaching of the Word.

It is very difficult to "make disciples" simply relying on the Sunday morning experiences in our local churches. Discipleship involves time and one-on-one relationships. It seems the more we work with camps, the more we come to believe that Christian camp experiences centered on the Word of God are a necessary tool for decisions for Christ. Werner Graendorf in his book "An Introduction to Christian Camping" writes: "Christian camping provides the church with what may be its most effective opportunity, outside the Christian family, for a true discipleship ministry. Camping and discipleship are an ideal partnership." Jesus did much of His discipling of the Twelve while they were retreated into the mountains and gardens. In Mark 6:31, Christ exhorted His disciples to "come apart and rest awhile."

Christian camping seeks to develop the total person, not only in relationship to himself and others, but also to God. During a several day, 24-hour-a-day experience, campers are encouraged to integrate their faith in the totality of their life; not a compartmentalized "Sunday

morning Christianity." Counselors and leaders model what it means to be a committed Christian. Their faith in Jesus affects their total behavior, conversations, attitudes and relationships. The Word of God preached, taught and lived has an opportunity to sink deep into the hearts and minds of the campers.

Camp provides an opportunity for youth and adults to become aware of the presence of God in a special way. The beautiful setting of God's creation combined with a schedule free from the normal daily pressures makes campers more perceptive and observant. When Jesus is the center of the whole program, many campers have the opportunity to meet Him face to face for the first time. Others renew their commitment and find solutions to particular problems. As the Holy Spirit convicts and challenges sin is dealt with and living for Jesus becomes a fresher and sharper focus. The Christian is equipped to return to the "real world" with new strength to live victoriously in Christ.

Our Free Lutheran camps have usually been centralized camps with the emphasis on big conference meetings and decisions in response to the preaching of the Word. The receptivity of the campers to the Holy Spirit's work may be affected by other aspects of the camp: good food, warm friends, plenty of rest and fun. Though these things are not of primary importance, they combine to set the stage for the main purpose of the camp; to teach and preach the Word that souls might be saved and grow in His grace and knowledge. A young Christian has many questions on what the Christian life means. Small group discussion times and one-on-one opportunities for guidance and encouragement must be a priority.

"The Word of God preached, taught and lived has an opportunity to sink deep into the hearts and minds of the campers."

Cooperstown Bible Camp

June 21-26

Theme: "Fight the Good Fight of Faith"

Cost: \$72

Speaker: Rev. Larry Haagenon

Galilee Family Camp, Lake Bronson, Minnesota

July 5-11

Theme: "Setting Christ Apart"

Theme Verse: I Peter 3:15

Speaker: Rev. Rodney Johnson

Galilee Teen Camp, Lake Bronson, Minnesota

June 28-July 3

Theme: "A Sure Foundation"

Theme Verse: Isaiah 53:6

Speaker: Rev. Mark Molstre

Galilee Pre-Teen Camp, Lake Bronson, Minnesota

June 23-28

Theme: "Sure of Salvation"

Theme Verse: I John 5:13

Speaker: Rev. John Abel

Orcas Island Camp, Orcas Island, Washington

July 27-August 1

Theme: "Living Ever Ready"

Speakers: District Pastors

AFLC Family Camp at the ARC

June 28-July 4

Speaker: Rev. Robert Lee

August 2-8

Speaker: Rev. Lyndon Korhonen

Theme: "My Anchor Holds"

Big Sky Bible Camp, Stillwater, Montana

August 30 week

Contact Rev. Jeff Swanson, Kalispell, Montana

AFLC Bible Camps

Minneapolis District Bible Camps

Junior Camp

June 22-27 at the ARC

Dean: Rev. Brian Davidson

Theme: "Relationships"

Bible Study and Evening Speaker: Rev. Lyndon Korhonen

Senior Camp

July 8-12 at the ARC

Dean: Rev. Tonnes Pollestad

Theme: "Spiritual Warfare"

Bible Study Leader: Rev. John Skeie

Evening Speaker: Rev. Vince Will

Lutheran Family and Youth Camp

Northern Illinois

July 26-30

Lake Geneva Conference Grounds

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

Faith Haven Youth Camp, Battle Lake, Minnesota

July 5-10 — Dale Finstrom, Dean

Theme: "Focusing on the Firm Foundation"

Verse: Matthew 7:25

Speaker: Rev. Mark Molstre

Bethany Youth Camps Grace Lake,

Bemidji, Minnesota

June 24-28 — Junior Camp

June 28-July 3 — Senior Camp

Speaker: Vernon Baardson

DISCIPLES

Personal quiet times, devotional times in the cabins and walks along the way are invaluable. Staff involvement with the campers individually is vital. This is discipleship. Sensitive and willing counselors and staff can make a camp a place where the Word can truly do its work in individual hearts and lives. It is imperative that camp organizers carefully and prayerfully select counselors. Counselors should be committed Christians who are eager to share Jesus with others and who are willing to be totally involved in the entire camp experience. The "chosen people" should meet before camp to plan, prepare and pray.

During our seven years in Brazil we have been involved in at least 16 large camp experiences. Through the course of these camps we have had the privilege of training many counselors and Bible School graduates from which we can select a good staff. Working with a dedi-

cated group of counselors before and after camp helps set the tone for a successful week. Much prayer and preparation precede a good week which results in new converts and spiritual growth. Most of our Brazilian national pastors made commitments to follow the Lord at Bible camp and some felt the call to go into the ministry because of that positive time. Many of our counselors first came to a living faith at camp themselves. This is so much like Jesus intended; that His disciples would learn from Him and then go forth and teach others. His disciples today must "catch a vision" from our Lord for what the Christian life and ministry involves.

Have you caught the vision? Consider spending a week at camp this summer. Perhaps there is a financial need for someone that you can help make it possible to attend a camp. There is no greater opportunity for leading individuals to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that in the discipling setting of the Christian camp.



— Rev. Paul Abel
Santa Felicidade,
Parana, Brazil

Vernon Youth Festival
 Silver Star Mt. Vernon B.C.
 August 27-30
 Theme: "Celebrate! Our God is Awesome!"
 Psalm 47:1, 2
 Speaker: John McGregor from Billy Graham Evangelistic Association
 Music: Robinson Straus
 Cost: \$89
 Contact Gert Kashuba at 604-545-0268
 Or write: 2106 - 45th Avenue, Vernon, B.C. V1T3M8

Pickeral Lake Bible Camp, Grenville, South Dakota
 June 22-28
 Theme: "Boldly Coming"
 Verse: Hebrews 4:14-16
 Speaker: Rev. Michael Brandt
Wilderness Family Bible Camp
 Lake Park, Minnesota
 July 14-19
 Speaker: Rev. Steve Odegaard
 Bible Teacher: Rev. Bruce Dalager
 Dean: Rev. Terry Olson

The Future of Camping in the AFLC

One of the strongest "programs" we have had for youth in our AFLC is our camping "program" As we see in this issue, our AFLC has a number of camps.

It is an important arm of the local congregation. Many youth and adults attend camp. At least three of the camps are owned by the AFLC. The Association Retreat Center in Osceola, Wisconsin, Bethany Bible Camp in Bemidji and Galilee Bible Camp at Lake Bronson, Minnesota. There may be others. Other camps are rented.

Some of us can recall the early days of the AFLC when we gathered at Alexandria, Minnesota, for the AFLC Family Bible Camp. Many were saved at this camp. The testimony times were great with many adults and youth giving testimony times were great with many adults and youth giving testimonies of faith in the Lord.

We do look forward to more of the same in our AFLC. We add the Northern Illinois area Bible Camp, and Lutheran Evangelistic Movement Camp at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, to our list. Souls will be won for Christ and many adults and youth will grow in their faith at camp.

Camp counseling will have to be more diversified in the future. The church is now ministering to people with many different kinds of needs. Our families are facing divorce, remarriage, physical and sexual assault, drugs, alcohol and more.

The AFLC must equip itself to know

the signs of problems, not only among its youth, but among its adult members as well. We have to meet the needs of those we minister to by bringing them the Word of God in such a way that it speaks to their needs and ministers to that which hurts on the inside.

A few years ago, one boy told his pastor that everyone was interested in the salvation of his soul but not in him as a person. If we are to be used by the Lord to bring people into His saving grace, we will have to minister to other needs as well. This ministry must be done in a non-judgmental way, accepting the persons and relating to them the person of Jesus who is the only one to meet all needs.

The goal of meeting the needs of our campers, adult or youth, can be

met by: 1) praying for the Lord Jesus Christ to lead us in our planning as led by the Holy Spirit; 2) by praying for opportunities to witness to individuals about Jesus Christ and; 3) to refer them to helping people who can help them further face the realities of life. This must be done by 4) teaching life skills to both adults and youth at camp and particularly in the local congregation.

There will be a need for additional and continual pastoral education which will aid our pastors and others who may be interested in meeting the needs of people.

The day has now come when we can't simply go to camp without any preparation. We need to be equipped to be helpers and to bring people to those who can help further, if needed.

Leading people to Jesus is the very first step in a series of many steps. We rejoice in those who have no concerns such as the ones listed at the beginning of this article. However, we will fool ourselves now and in the future if we think the AFLC is free from these concerns.

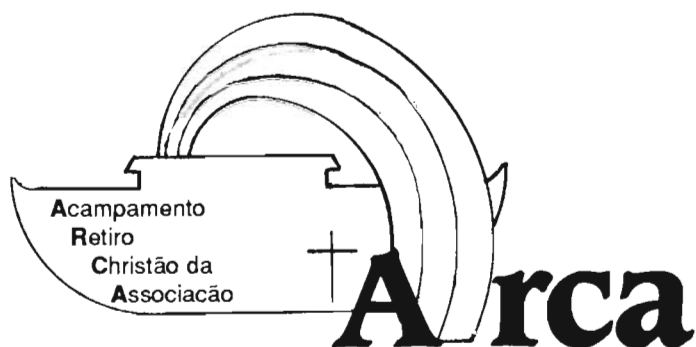
We rejoice in what we have in Christ and our AFLC. We must look to the future as filled with possibilities to develop camping programs which minister in such a way that needs are met. Yes, the Lord has met them in the past and will do so in the future. We need only be faithful. May the Lord also make us sensitive in our faithfulness.

—Rev. Dennis Gray
 Youth Director Resources



The Halvor Knapp family, Wilmar, Minnesota

A Dream Come True



Nestled in the beautiful foothills of Paraná's second plateau rests the Brazilian version of the ARC (ARCA). ARCA stands for Acampamento Retiro Cristão da Associação (Christian camp and Retreat Center of the Association). The ARCA is one more confirmation of the fulfillment of God's promises in the lives of His people. Becky and I have always dreamed of a place where we could hold retreats for couples and church leaders and Bible camps for all ages. Then in July 1991, when we least expected anything of the kind, God opened a door for this dream to become reality.

I just happened to be paging through the newspaper when my eye singled out an ad for a piece of real estate 21 acres in size with lights, water, and telephone, 45 minutes from downtown Curitiba on a city bus and one-half mile from a small town. The property boasted the existence of two wooden houses, a covered picnic area, and a brick barn (30 ft. x 162 ft.) that had been formerly used for raising rab-

bits. On a whim we drove out to see the place and immediately saw great possibilities. It seemed ridiculous to even consider as we had absolutely no money for such a venture. Much to our amazement three hours later we closed the deal with the owner — our house and lot in the city was an even trade for the country farm. We still find ourselves awestruck by the way God worked in this situation. If we had **tried** to make a deal like this it would have been impossible. But as we have learned many times in our lives, with our God all things are possible.

Last January we moved into the remodeled wooden house on the farm and began work on the camp. In order to better serve the local and national church we donated one-third of the property containing the brick barn to the Brazilian AFLC. With their encour-

agement and cooperation we began a remodeling process that should in the near future provide a rustic, but functional retreat location. We highly value camp experiences as an extension of the local church ministry and we pray that the ARCA will be a place for many people to be saved and discipled. In September we plan to dedicate the camp during the 3rd Brazilian AFLC youth convention. We expect 150 youth from all of our churches to gather here for four days of fellowship and spiritual growth.

During the seven years we have lived in Curitiba we have often been frustrated when camp season comes around. Our church camp is seven hours away in Campo Mourã and there are always many more youth that want to go to camp, but are not able to afford the trip. We have tried to pay for first-timers to give them this great opportunity. Some years we have had as many as 40 people from our area at our AFLC camp. However, distance and cost prohibited our Curitiba churches from effectively using camp as an evangelistic tool of the church. With the completion of the ARCA we will be able to host many retreats and camps for a minimal cost, always with the goal of reaching people for Christ and helping them in their walk with the Lord. We also envision the camp serving as a training center for other groups. Many mainline churches that work with lower income people have difficulty finding a place that meets their needs at a price that fits their reality. Groups such as Youth for Christ also have need of camp facilities. At the same time we are helping these groups, the camp will have the possi-



The 162 x 30 ft. existing building. The Girl's and Boy's dorms are at the two ends separated by the dining hall and chapel.

bility of generating funds for the Brazilian AFLC as well.

As God has provided the funds, we have landscaped and begun the slow process of remodeling the barn into a retreat center. In April the major divisions for dormitories, cafeteria, and chapel were completed. The major additions we await money to build are two bathrooms and a kitchen that will be added on to the back side of the existing building. We are in the process of grassing in a soccer field and building a concrete volleyball court. One grass court for volleyball is already functioning. It's very exciting for Becky and me to be involved in this project as we see a ministry dream becoming reality.

The voluntary gifts that have come in have been an encouragement to us, as well as all the positive remarks from pastors, family and friends who rejoice with us in this new opportunity. If any groups are interested in helping with



The Paul Abel family and the view from the ARCA.

this project financially or by coming down to Brazil to work, please contact the Missions Office. We look forward to the visit of the FLY team in June to help build tables and bunk beds for the

retreat center. Please uphold us in prayer as we give ourselves to this endeavor for the glory and proclamation of Christ.

— Missionary Paul Abel

February and March Mexico Trips a Success

Two work groups in a two-month period of time had a major impact on the church in Agrariste, near Obregon, Mexico. Through their efforts the first phase of construction for the parsonage has been completed plus a number of other items.

The February Outreach Team from Kalispell, Montana, dug footings and poured foundations, rough plumbed, dug and poured a septic system and hand dug a portion of the septic line. They painted the interior and exterior of the existing church and brushed out the jungle which had grown in the back yard. In addition to all of this, the movie "Jesus" was presented using the new video projector in Agrarista. Puppet shows were presented and tracts distributed in two neighboring villages. The February Team pooled their



Pastor Gabriel (center) with two of the young men that would like to go to Bible college. Rudolf is on the left and Jose is on the right. The cost to send these young men to Bible college is about \$1,500 each per year.

money to repair Pastor Gabriel's car, which desperately needed tires, brakes and shocks.

The March Team from North Dakota and northern Minnesota built 80 feet of adobe brick walls and poured the concrete corner posts and cap. They poured a concrete slab at the entrance to the church, finished digging the septic line, painted the trim on the windows and doors, painted the altar podiums and carpeted the altar and pol-

ished the brass candle holders and cross. The team also built roof trusses; however, rain delayed standing the trusses. The movie "Cross and the Switchblade" was shown in Agrarista and the "Jesus" movie was shown in Compotrientia. Bibles were distributed.

One other important item of business that the March Team accomplished was that they raised the money needed to "nationalize" Pastor



Partners In Prayer



"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Pray for the families and friends of Leone Snipstead and Jan Rieth, that they might know the comfort of God's presence in their sorrow.

Pray for the AFLC Annual Conference, June 17-21, that the Lord might visit us with a "season of refreshing" (Acts 3:19).

Praise for the progress on the new administration building, and for the plans to dedicate it after the annual conference.

Pray for AFLC President Robert Lee, World Mission Director Eugene Enderlein, and Home Mission Director Elden Nelson.

Praise for the arrival of missionaries Jonathan and Tamba Abel in Brazil to begin their first term.

Pray for the FLY team as the group of about one dozen youth train on the Bible School campus during the first week in June for their short-term missionary service this summer.

Pray for the Home Mission congregations seeking pastors: Spokane, Washington; Bismarck, North Dakota; Rugby, North Dakota; Chillicothe, Illinois; and Murrieta, California.

Praise for the new congregation at Mondovi, Wisconsin, and for congregations at Goodridge, Minnesota, and

Tulia, Texas, whose affiliation was recently approved.

Pray for safe arrival of missionaries John and Ruby Abel in the U.S. from Brazil in late May or early June.

**To pray is
not only to ask
for something.
Prayer is being
with God.**

— F. Wisløff

Gabriel's car. This will allow Pastor Gabriel to go anywhere in Mexico anytime he needs to. Prior to this he had restrictions on the number of days he could drive into the interior of Mexico.

A great deal of work was accomplished and it was all completed with hand labor. However, the greatest work was accomplished in the hearts of the people that heard God's call and answered. Here are a few comments that people made:

"It has drawn me closer to God and has given me a heart for missions. We must not stop in Mexico but keep sharing with others back home. Now that I have seen these people in their poverty, it gives me an appreciation for what I have and what my parents have done for me."

— Jay Harmer, age 15,
Warroad, Minnesota

"My whole attitude about missions has been broadened. My understand-

ing of the real life situation is much more clear. Now that I know ... others are going to know, even if they don't want to."

— Alison Mellgren,
Fargo, North Dakota

There is still a great deal of work to be accomplished at this church building in Agrarista before it is completed. My prayer is that churches would take an active interest in helping to provide the funds for continued building costs and that they would take an interest in sponsoring several of the young men from this village that would like to attend Bible college. The cost to send these men to Bible college is \$1,500 per man per year. This does not sound like much to us but it is almost a full year's wages in Mexico.

If you or your church would like more information about this work, please contact the AFLC World Missions Board, Ted Kennedy in Nogales, Arizona; phone 602-287-5318 or Clark Berg in Kalispell, Montana; phone 406-755-4160.

— Clark Berg

*Stillwater Lutheran Church
Kalispell, Montana*



Clothing distribution at the church in Agrarista, Mexico. Used clothing in good condition is very much appreciated.

Ninth Annual Conference of The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in Canada

The conference opened Friday evening, April 3, at Bethel Lutheran Church, Frontier, Saskatchewan, with a time of praise in song, worship and sharing.

Missionary Connely Dyrud, Brazil, spoke on the conference theme, "Jesus is the Way." He compared the stories of two Brazilians. One, a doctor whose religion was spiritism met his problems by committing suicide. The other, a penniless widow who placed her trust in Jesus died in an unheated shack, radiating peace as she prepared to meet Him.

The communion service was conducted by Pastor Al Pinno of Frontier.

President Gene Sundby opened the conference reading from the first chapter of Ephesians reminding us that we are bound together in Christ. He welcomed those present from Solid Rock Lutheran congregation of Camrose, Alberta, the newest congregation.

Saturday began with Rev. Dyrud's missionary report.

He told of the Miriam Home for orphans which came about when the Brazilian government asked them to help their abandoned children which number nearly 13,000,000. The missionaries responded immediately by turning part of a dormitory over to house the children which are fed, dressed, and healed of various diseases so that families can be found to adopt them. Construction is under way for a building to house the orphans.

Conference business, president's report and report of committees ending with resolutions took the rest of the day. Pastor Al Pinno was returned as vice president and Grace Hagen, Lake Alma, remained conference secretary.

A banquet was served by the Frontier Inn at the Senior Citizen's Center.

The evening service was conducted by Camrose congregation with the help of Pastor Jim Winter of Calgary and David Anderson, Froniter, who have

been helping with services in Camrose.

Pastor Dyrud spoke on Acts 4:12. He told of the strong hold of spiritism and satanism in Brazil and reminded us that the missionaries

need constant prayer. Prayer is as important as being there.

During the Sunday morning service, Pastor Les Johnson, Lake Alma, Saskatchewan, chairman of the Coordinating Committee, spoke.

President Gene Sundby closed the conference reading from I Corinthians 2:1-5, reminding us to keep our thoughts centered upon Jesus.

— Ceta Rude
Lake Alma, Saskatchewan



President Gene Sundby, Vice President Al Pinno and Grace Hagen, Conference Secretary.



This band played before each service at the conference. It is made up of Audrey and Dan Hagen, Dennis Rude, Lorne Friggstad and Magna Norheim.

1992 HYMNAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

GENERAL EXPENSE ACCOUNT

Item	Income	Expense	Total
Total Donations up to 1/1/92	\$1,650		\$1,650
Total Budgeted up to 1/1/92	\$2,000		\$3,650
Total Expense up to 1/1/92		\$3,149.80	
Balance as of 1/1/92 \$500.20			
Donation by individual (ef) 1/92	\$ 500		\$1,000.20
Quill/computer ribbons		\$ 45.86	\$ 954.34
Donation from Alma Lutheran Church 2/92	\$ 500		\$1,454.34

SALARY ACCOUNT

(Money budgeted by Coordinating Committee for salary.)

Total available up to 1/1/92		\$6,000
Total expense up to 1/1/92		\$4,030
Balance as of 1/1/92		\$1,970
Salary/B. Davidson 1/92	\$ 400	\$1,570
Salary/B. Davidson 2/92	\$ 400	\$1,170

COPYRIGHT EXPENSE ACCOUNT

Donations as of 1/1/92	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total as of 1/1/92		\$2,000

PROJECTED FINANCIAL NEEDS (Estimates)

(Expenses thus far which are all paid by budget and donations.)

Miscellaneous office expenses —	\$1,000-2,000
Hired editing, copyright negotiation, and administration work —	\$2,000-4,000
Donations for pre-paid copyrights —	\$3,000-6,000
Purchase of other copyrights after production (approx. \$1 per book paid for by the sale price of books.) —	\$10,000
Typesetting of text — \$3,000-5,000	
Engraving of hymns @ \$20 per hymn —	\$12,000-14,000
Printing and binding of 10,000 books —	\$30,000-40,000
Total cost of project —	\$63,000-83,000
Total paid thus far —	\$12,000
Total needed in advance —	\$53,000-73,000
Total needed after project (copyright, distribution, adm.)	\$10,000-30,000

Total expected to be paid by sales of hymnal (100% plus).

10,000 hymnals, cost per book	
Copyright purchase and administration —	\$2
Typesetting and engraving —	\$2
Administration, distribution —	\$2
Printing and binding —	\$5
Misc. and unexpected costs —	\$2
*Est. cost per book —	\$13 — (total: \$130,000)
*This figure is probably high; in fact, at \$13 per book, there may be a profit.	

Time needed to complete the project if the money is available:

One good year to negotiate copyrights.

One good year to typeset, edit and print.

Total — 1-3 years from today (2/11/92).

New Hymnal

There is light at the end of the tunnel. We are getting into the production stages of the AFLC Ambassador Hymnal. There is much work to be done yet at considerable expense. However, I am confident that the hymnal will be an excellent book which will be used by Lutheran Churches all across the United States and Canada.

We have worked hard to produce an excellent hymnal with a solid core of Lutheran hymns and liturgical material along with an abundant source of American and Gospel hymnody as well as worship service resources well suited to the more low-churchly element of Lutheranism. You have been well-informed through *The Lutheran Ambassador* about opportunities for input and have been told the complete contents of the liturgical and hymn sections of the book. The response of the AFLC people and others has been over whelmingly positive.

At the present time we are in the final stages of editing the book. Once that is done we plan on applying for all the copyrights within the next two months. After that we will begin to typeset the written parts, engrave the public domain hymns, finish the indexes, plan the layout, negotiate with typesetters, engravers, printers and binders, set out the mechanism for future book-keeping, promote and sell the book.

I need the Coordinating Committee, Hymnal Committee and interested parties to help me know how to execute and finance these areas. From now on most of the work is done by hired professionals. The sale of the book should cover most if not all of the costs, in fact, it may well produce a profit. However, we need the cash in advance from the AFLC, churches, individuals, Luther Leagues, etc. The more donations we can get, the less expensive the book will be and the better it will sell and the more widely it will be used.

People of the AFLC, please give me your input as soon as possible so that I can have some proposals for the 1992

Report, Requests

Annual Conference. You will find a statement of projected costs. This may be accurate and it may not be. I am not an expert but have guessed on the basis of what I know thus far.

Thank you for all your help, donations, prayers and concern.

—Rev. Tom Olson
Cumberland, Wisconsin



Pastors Brian Davidson and Tom Olson at work on the AMBASSADOR HYMNAL.

FORUM

An Idea That Could Change The Budget

An idea was shared at a recent Missions Conference at Calvary Free Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. It was based on the assumption that most of us eat out at least once in awhile. The challenge was made that we sacrifice our first meal out each month and give the value of that meal to the Lord's work.

The estimated value of the meal is \$5.

National workers in mission fields are having funds cut and Home Mission churches are being cut back. We need to pray that God would give us the attitude that the Christians of Macedonia had in II Corinthians 8:3-5, they begged for an opportunity to support their fellow believers.

The amazing thing is this, if only one-half of our confirmed members in the AFLC would make this commitment, we would exceed our budget needs within a year! Can we do it? Yes we can! Will we do it? That depends

on each one of us.

The form below is called a commitment reminder. Cut it out and place it somewhere in your home where the Lord can use it to remind you to sacrifice the value of that first meal out each month.

Let's rejoice in seeing God's work go forward. Let's help our fellow believers who are in need.

May all that is given be given for the glory and honor of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

—Rev. Paul Larson,
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Commitment Reminder

According to ability ... they gave ... begging ... for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, ... but they first gave themselves to the Lord. II Corinthians 8:3-5

Since it would take only one-half of our confirmed AFLC members (giving \$5 per month for a year) to eliminate our budget deficit, I have decided that as the Lord prospers me, for one year I will make a commitment to:

- ☐ Give \$5 above what I'm now giving.
- ☐ Encourage at least one other person in another AFLC congregation to do the same.

Send check to: (Choose one of the below.)

AFLC (General Fund, Parish Ed., Schools, Home Missions, World Missions, Capital Investment, ARC)

3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55441

Kirkland, Washington Church Celebrates 25 Years

In October, 1991 Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kirkland, Washington, (Pastor Kenneth Moland) celebrated our 25th year. Its existence from a group of five families who had a desire to have a Free Lutheran way of life has grown to a dedicated and active congregation.

Harold and Elvira Ostlund, Jim and Marilyn Bottem, Loren and Bev Eikenberry, Ed and Twyla Odegaard, and Delton and Betty Halvorson with prayer and determination established the embryo for a congregation who desired to do the Lord's work. The progress from the "original five" to the present day can best be represented in three states: "forming, fumbling, and forwarding."

During the "forming years" the group of five purchased property, and Robert Rieth and his wife, Marion, in 1966, accepted the call to do the Lord's work in Kirkland, Washington, for a church and state they had never visited before.

The house on the purchased property served both as a parsonage for the Rieths and a meeting place for the congregation. Then a new mission church was started on April 7, 1968. Also, 48 charter members were received during that first year. The sanctuary was dedicated into the service of our Lord on

November 10, 1968 at 3 p.m. Pastor Jay G. Erickson of Ferndale delivered the message.

In a short time, however, that structure became too small for the increasing membership. Volunteer crews working mostly on Saturdays in 98 weeks, built the new and our present complex. It was dedicated on April 11, 1976.

During the remainder of the 70s and the beginning 80s, baptisms, weddings, and receiving new members continued. Pastor Rieth designated them as the "Years of Opportunity" for outreach programs, backyard Bible school, Wednesday evening meetings, adult Bible study, family retreats, Luther League and WMF.

The "floundering years" commenced with Pastor Rieth's resignation in the early 1980s. Pastor Walter Jespersen filled the void until Pastor Ingolf Kronstad accepted our call and arrived with his family. Church activity sustained, but all was not well. Some of the membership did not agree with the new pastor's concepts. One Sunday morning in 1981, together with Pastor Jespersen, Pastor Kronstad and approximately 27 families left Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

The work of ORLC did go on, however, because Pastor Steve Odegaard and his family shepherded our flock until he resigned in 1982. From his leaving until Pastor Kenneth Moland and Barbara, with their family, arrived in 1984, Pastor Mel Bremer and his wife, Sally, kept our floundering minimal. With Pastor Bremer's quiet and

California

There are now four churches in southern California Conference Workshop and Rally:

First Lutheran Church, Camarillo — Pastor Walter Johnson.

Shepherd of the Valley Free Lutheran Church, Palmdale — Pastor David Molstre.

Shepherd's Church of the Valley, Murrieta — Pastor David Skordahl.

Neighborhood Bible Church, AFLC, Oceanside — Pastor Orville Hiepler.

We began our opening service with introductions, scripture, prayer and music, and then each of us attended one of four workshops.

In his workshop on church leadership, Professor Ralph Tjelta said, "The most important thing for us as Christians is not to come and find out what we have to do or ought to do, but the most important thing is to come to the church hungry for the Word to draw us

prayerful way, the congregation began to heal. The summer of 1983 the Vacation Bible School had as their theme, "Jesus Lord of Promise."

"Forwarding" time commenced when Pastor Kenneth Moland accepted our call. He delivered his first sermon at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church on July 15, 1984, stressing the importance of the "body of unity." With Barbara's



Workshop and Rally Held

closer to Jesus." Then he invited lay people to speak on the topics of stewardship, Bible study, evangelism and personal devotions. These are all a part of a church program, but most of all programming must equal people and people equal prayer.

Mrs. Katha Tjelta led a workshop on parish education. She talked about how to build the parish education department and how to make it grow under the Holy Spirit's guidance. She said it can really go, grow and glow and we were all blessed by her insights in this area. Mrs. Tjelta also talked about departmentalizing for adults, couples, singles, etc. She exposed us to the materials the AFLC has available for us and we are grateful for that.

Mrs. Karen Knutsvig shared about the Women's Missionary Federation. "Ladies, God only asks us to be willing vessels," said Karen. She enthusiastically described many programs the

WMF participates in, including home missions, my missionary for a day and cradle roll. Their monetary gifts support new churches just starting up, missionary living expenses, Sunday School materials, seminary and Bible school. Karen explained the AFLC emblem depicting an open Bible, an ascending dove to represent the Holy Spirit ascending, and the green vine symbolizing the living congregation. She talked of God's call to women to serve Him through service and witness. The purpose of WMF is to awaken interest in and love for the Kingdom of God at home and abroad by uniting all women of the AFLC churches into deeper fellowship. Karen emphasized our need to study His Word and to trust that He knows our every need. Our National WMF office offers insights on how to organize the women's group and has literature available.

The fourth workshop was on church

music, led by our choir director with Don Carlson, leader. Music is an important part of our worship. The combined choir then led us in worship at the end of the day.

We had a wonderful prayer time for some hurting among us and then gathered together for singspiration and closing message from Professor Tjelta. His message was titled "Follow Me ... From the Filth of Sin to the Finality of the Gospel." His text was Zachariah 3, where Joshua stands before the Lord with the sins (filth) of the people and Satan accuses him and says "you are not good enough." But Satan's final rebuke came from Jesus. "It is finished." Salvation is granted. Sin (filth) is taken away. The finality of the pardon is from Jesus. I have taken the iniquity away. The price is paid and this man, Joshua, is useful again. The finality of the Promise is from Jesus; there will be a redemption, a fulfillment of hope, a life everlasting, a day of joy in the presence of Jesus.

Thank you to everyone who made this day possible for us. We were truly blessed. We would like to close this article with the same thought Professor Tjelta left us with, that is the Finality of the Call. Are you going to go the way of the cross or the way of self? Are you going to live for man or God? What is your answer?

— by Wendy Kupser and
Mary Whitley
First Lutheran Church,
Camarillo, California

background in music she helped us "enter into His courts with praise and singing." ORLC strengthened its base and programs. In the 1980s 70 members were accepted, 15 young people confirmed, and 34 babies baptized.

In this present time frame we are still "forwarding." We're thankful for the pastors who accepted our call and came to serve Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. We're indebted to the many loyal members who taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Christian preschool. We appreciate the persons who guided the participants of Pioneer Girls, Brigade Boys, Wambpees, Choirs, FISH, King's Kids and Serendipity.

We're grateful to those over the 25 years who have served as deacons, trustees, and officers of ORLC. Thank God there is an Our Redeemer Lutheran Church with its saints so that as Free Lutherans, we can worship believing that Christian unity is a spiritual concept and not a man-made organization. We are thankful for the congregation, the right form of the King-

dom of God on earth with no authority over it but the Word and Spirit of God.

As the congregation continues "forward" in confidence, prayer, and praise, we have our God and Redeemer. We keep before us Wil Olson's testimony, "God is faithful," and the scripture verses Pastor Robert Rieth used in 1975 for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church's tenth year celebration:

Joshua 1:5-7 "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and of good courage; for you shall cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law which Moses my servant commanded you; turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go."

God is faithful. Thanks be to God.

— Betty Sorrels

To be a worker with youth on behalf of the King is life's supreme privilege. There are enough discouragements and disappointments in Christian youth work to drive us continually to the foot of the cross ... enough deep joys and rewards to keep us going with a bounce and with a song.

— Wilton E. Bergstrand

A Tribute To A Dear Friend

Dear Leone

In these last weeks of your life on this earth, so many thoughts about you have been going over in my mind. It has been wonderful to have you as a friend living so close by since you moved back to Minneapolis. You had such an enthusiasm for trying new things like going cross-country skiing. Didn't we have fun trying some of those trails around the Twin Cities. Then you found me a good deal on a bike to buy and we also tried some short but fun bike trips — always there was talk about the trips we would take in the future. But this was not to be — these last few years there was only enough energy left to enable you to take care of the daily tasks of living as well as to serve others in various ways.

God gifted you with some very special talents in the area of the practical things of life and you were never afraid to tackle anything. I just wonder how many people on the earth, besides your family, have been the recipients of this given to you and shared with so many. Occasionally I would hear of some wall papering, painting, upholstering or sewing job done for someone else and wonder how many I didn't know about. Even up to the last weeks of your life, before becoming hospitalized, you were serving in this way. As we visited a few weeks ago you gave me a bit of advice on a project I had before me. I have thought about it many times since as a gift from you and realized how much I would miss you in this way too.

Always you were faithful to your calling as a mother and a helpmate to your husband in the work of the ministry. You had a quiet but friendly and concerned interest in all whom you met. This was true in your nursing con-



Kristen Schierkolk, Waynd Welsch, Stacy McCarlson and Matt Meisch.

Luther League Gospel Team Introduced

The Cornerstone 1992 Luther League Gospel Team will be leaving on June 6 for their summer travels. Team members are: Stacy McCarlson, Webster, South Dakota; Kristen Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, Wisconsin; Wayne Welsch, Amery, Wisconsin; and team leader Matt Meisch, Crystal, Minnesota.

The purpose of the group being sent is to teach leadership and to encourage youth to accept Jesus as Savior and to walk with Him, witnessing for Him daily.

The first Luther League Gospel Team was sent out in 1988. A total of 16 youth have traveled in Illinois, Michigan, North and South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota.

The purposes and direction of the Cornerstone team has been sharpened through the years. (Primarily as the Youth Director learned the basics.) It now includes local churches, district gatherings, leadership events and Bible camps.

The Youth Directors may also be with this year's team. Training will take place with other teams from AFLBS during the first week of June.

— Pastor Dennis Gray

tacts as well as all the people in the AFLC who hold you so dear. In the local congregation we will miss you as well. I know it was hard for you to continue as WMF president at Medicine Lake this past year. In January you were hosting the monthly meeting at your home. A few days before I had talked to you and asked if I couldn't have it at our house since you weren't feeling well, but you said "Oh, no, I'll be okay by then. Amazingly you were able to do it and you seemed to be feeling better. I remember your expression of concern that we should be more concerned about reaching out to those outside or on the

fringes of our congregation. Truly I think you fulfill the picture of the woman of God in Proverbs 31.

You are going to be missed by so many but we rejoice in the words of Revelation 14:13 "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord — That they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." You and another dear sister, Jan Rieth, are rejoicing today in the presence of the Lord you loved and served, and that's where we will see you again — at the feet of Jesus.

Thank you for being such a dear friend.

Lovingly,
Joan (Udden)

W. Burton Rygh

Burton Rygh was a successful dairy farmer, who after a conversion experience, began preaching in several churches in the Roseau, Wanaska and Greenbush area. Those who remember Burton from the AFLC Summer Schools of Theology recall his wit and practical wisdom.

Burton was a man of prayer. I first met him in the summer of 1966 as an intern in Roseau. While attending a lay- mens meeting at Salem Lutheran, I was impressed with his deep prayers. He would begin many prayers: "Thank you for another day of grace ..."

Burton was called to full-time ministry at United Free Lutheran, Greenbush. During those years, we district pastors enjoyed his warm fellowship as well as his devotion to evangelism in his ministry. The last months of his life while a resident of Sheltering Oaks and Skilled Care nursing homes, Burton had a unique ministry among the residents. His faith was tested and strengthened.

Those of us who have been privileged to know Burton have been blessed and enriched. His ministry was always appreciated in our AFLC church family. Burton was a colleague, but more, a friend!

— *Pastor Larry Severson*

RECONCILIATION

It only takes two people to have a disagreement. Anyone who has been married for a while knows the truth of that statement. One of our greatest continuing needs is to reconcile differences as they occur.

In Mark 7:21 we read: "For from within, out of the heart of man proceed ..." and a listing of evils. Then verse 23 concludes: "All these evil things come from within and defile a man." These evil things break relationships and cause heartaches in the lives of all those involved. Dealing with a marriage "gone bad" can be one of the most difficult tasks a pastor has to deal with. Broken domestic relationships bring some of the most violent actions, including murder.

The recent riots in Los Angeles are a picture of the violent nature of the heart of man when there is unrest and lack of fulfillment in people's lives. It is terrible what we do to one another. Sometimes it is violent like the Los Angeles riots. Sometimes it is more subtle and never really understood or resolved.

God has a plan for any problems in relationships as He has for all our troubles. He sent His only begotten Son to die on the Cross to pay the penalty for all our sins. He desires to forgive us because of what Jesus did on the Cross on our behalf.

In Matthew 6:12, Jesus teaches us to pray "and forgive us our (debts) trespasses as we forgive those who trespass

against us." Then in verses 14 and 15, He continues the explanation of that petition. "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Now we know that if we want to be with the Lord in eternity as well as to have a personal relationship with Him in this life we must repent and receive God's forgiveness for all our sins. Note the added word that we must forgive other people who may sin against us if we are to have God's forgiveness.

In Matthew 18:21-35, Jesus gives us an illustration of the need of forgiving others in the parable of the Unforgiving Servant. The Master forgave the servant a very large debt. But his same servant found a fellow servant who owed him a very small amount by comparison and demanded that he pay him what he owed. When the fellow servant wasn't able to pay him what he owed, the first servant put the fellow servant into prison "till he should pay the debt." When the Master heard about it he called the first servant and told him that he had forgiven him a large debt; one he could possibly never repay. He then tells him in verse 33: "Should you not also have compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you? He then delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due him." Verse 35 gives the closing statement: "So my heavenly Father will do to you if each of you, from his heart does not forgive his brother his trespasses." If we cannot forgive someone else for something they have done to us then God cannot forgive us our many sins against Him. That would mean eternal separation from God in all eternity.

That is a very serious thought. Do we risk eternal separation from God because we cannot forgive someone who may have sinned against us? It shows the absolute necessity of our being willing to forgive others the wrongs they may have done to us.

An unforgiving spirit is perhaps the worst kind of spirit we can ever have.

I'll never forget a young girl at an LEM meeting in British Columbia. After a message on the necessity of forgiveness, she confessed she needed to ask forgiveness from a fellow student. She was jealous toward that student for achievements she had made which this girl wanted to have. In her jealousy she had treated this other girl very badly.

We all need to search our hearts to see if perhaps there is a person or persons we have had hard feelings toward for things we feel have hurt us.

God have mercy on our souls for an unforgiving spirit.

PEOPLE and PLACES

Senior seminarian Ted Hansen has accepted the call to serve Abiding in the Vine Free Lutheran Fellowship, Pine City, Minnesota. **Senior seminarian James L. Johnson** has accepted the call to serve Calvary Free Lutheran Church, Fosston, Minnesota. Both men will be ordained at the Annual Conference on June 21.

Plymouth, Minnesota — Medicine Lake Lutheran Church recently voted to proceed with plans to build on the property purchased several years ago at the corner of Zachary Lane North and Old County Road 9. Rev. John Skeie is the pastor of the congregation.

The building project will be done in three or more phases. The first phase will be the soil preparation, grading and berming. The second phase would be the multi-purpose building for church, offices, kitchen and meeting areas. This would include utilities, parking lots, landscaping and furnishings. The third phase would be the parish education addition which would house the Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy as well as Sunday School space for the congregation. A fourth phase in the future would be a permanent sanctuary.

Rev. Craig Wentzel, Leeds, North Dakota, has resigned from Lebanon Free Lutheran Church and North Prairie Free Lutheran Church where he has served as pastor since 1988. He has accepted the call from Zoar Free Lutheran Church, Edmore, North Dakota, and will begin serving there in July, 1992.

Lake Stevens Washington — The Elim Lutheran Church Senior Choir performed the musical, "Who Will Call Him King Of Kings" at both its morning and a special evening service on Easter. The 31 member choir told the story of Paul and Silas and their ministry in prison to the prisoners at Philippi. There was a great sense of accomplishment for the team spirit that was evident in the production, which was heard by over 400 people.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Second-Class



Ottawa, Illinois — Freedom Lutheran Church welcomed a family of seven to their congregation on Sunday, February 23. Jerry and Tonya Sexton recently made professions of faith in the Lord Jesus. Since they had been unchurched prior to this time, they all desired to be baptized. Following a sermon on Acts 16, Jerry gave testimony to the fact that he and his entire family wanted to follow Christ. Jerry, Tonya, and their five sons, Bud, Danny, Adam, Joe and Matthew were then baptized.

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences - February 1 - April 30, 1992

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN APRIL	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	%* TOTAL
General Fund	\$295,450.00	\$17,011.06	\$43,014.29	15
Schools - (AFLTS) . .	149,535.00	12,202.60	20,767.09	14
(AFLBS) . .	208,625.00	13,206.51	26,682.34	13
Home Missions	433,616.00	24,409.17	59,844.45	14
World Missions	409,715.00	28,534.15	71,361.99	17
Capital Investment . .	30,000.00	994.32	3,184.72	11
Parish Education . . .	84,385.00	4,609.42	19,170.69	23
ARC	20,000.00	372.14	1,433.60	7
TOTALS	\$1,631,326.00	\$101,339.37	\$245,459.17	15
1991 - 1992	\$1,537,681.00	\$97,116.08	\$230,300.54	15

*Goal 25%